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50

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

Communist China: Peking is making little headway
in ending factional violence. (Page 3)



Czechoslovakia: Security units snuff out minor
demonstrations in Prague. (Page 5)

Poland: Grain and potato production falls. (Page 6)

Communist China - USSR: Protest note (Page 7)

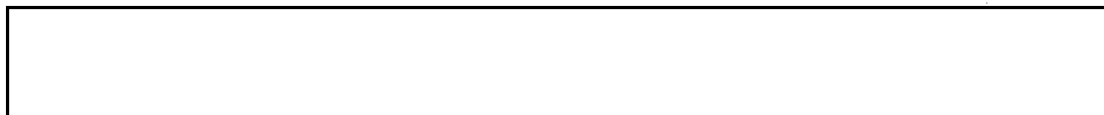
USSR: Mars probe (Page 7)

Burma: U Nu's activities (Page 9)

Tanzania - Communist China: Military training
(Page 9)

Guyana-Surinam: Border incident (Page 9)

Sudan: Political strains (Page 10)

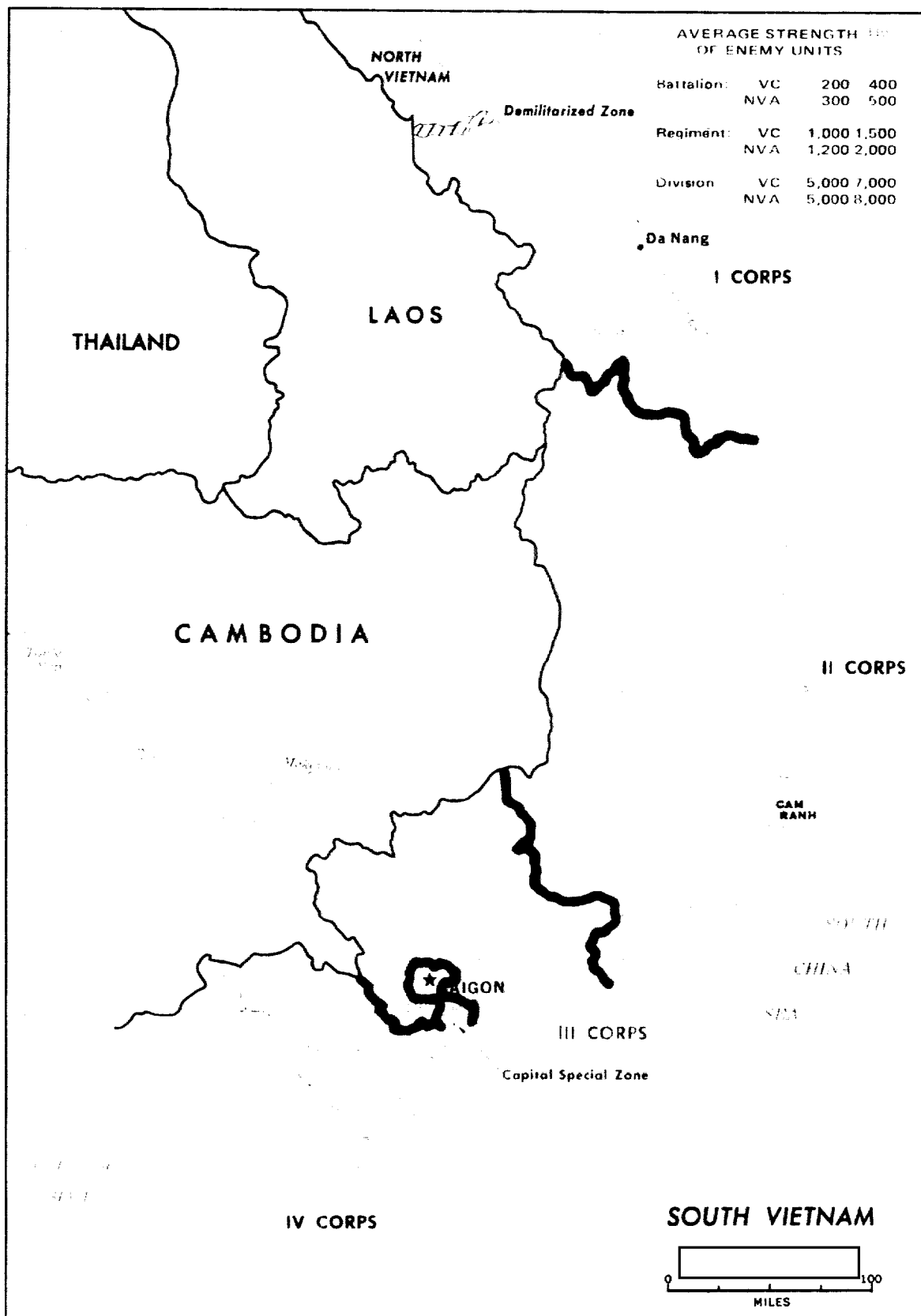


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25X1

25X6

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【 South Vietnam: The focus of military action has shifted from the provinces northwest of Saigon to the northern I Corps region.

In the Da Nang area, several rockets struck US facilities early on 19 August and a small Communist sapper force assaulted a US regimental headquarters south of the city. US and South Vietnamese forces fought two more sharp battles near the Demilitarized Zone.

Full reports on the two battles south of Da Nang yesterday in which 143 enemy troops were killed disclose that 14 US soldiers died and 48 were wounded. The engagements started when two US infantry companies ran into larger enemy forces, believed to be part of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division, while making sweeps near a refugee center in Quang Tin Province. Elsewhere in the country military activity remains at the same reduced level of the past few days.

The Communists are placing heavy emphasis on political agitation and propaganda in the countryside, according to several recent defectors. One, for example, claims that Viet Cong military units have been told to round up civilians from hamlets and villages in his area so that political cadres can harangue them. Their principal theme is that US troop withdrawals constitute but one of many upcoming Communist victories and that people should act now to get aboard the Viet Cong bandwagon.

25X1

20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

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Chinese Provinces in Which Factional Fighting is Reported



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Communist China: Peking is making little headway implementing its latest directive calling for an end to factional violence.

[redacted] sporadic fighting is continuing in a number of provinces, including several previously stabilized areas in east and south China and two border regions.

[redacted] the central authorities are presently trying to end the hostilities in some localities by negotiation and have offered to appoint a number of factional leaders to local governing bodies as an incentive.

Peking's current difficulty in curbing provincial disorders may be a result of its attempts to use a "carrot and stick" approach. On the one hand, the central government has issued a harshly worded directive dated 23 July calling on factionalists to cease fighting and surrender their arms within one month. The directive appears aimed at former Red Guard remnants and representatives of "mass organizations" still at odds with each other and in some cases opposing incumbent provincial authorities. On the other hand, Peking is attempting to prevent local officials from interpreting the 23 July directive as a sanction for suppressing the factions they oppose. An authoritative People's Daily article published on 23 July, the text of which was only recently available, has taken pains to point out that rival factions must be "treated equally" and that their leaders must be "protected."

Under these conditions, Peking's instructions will prove particularly difficult to enforce. Much of the provincial disunity which has beset the regime since the ninth party congress last April stems from the dissatisfaction of factional leaders with the provincial power structure confirmed by the congress. There are no easy solutions in sight, however, to the thorny problem of adjusting the representation of various interest groups on local government bodies. [redacted]

25X1

20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

SECRET

25X1

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Czechoslovakia: [Security units quickly snuffed out minor demonstrations yesterday afternoon and evening in Prague's Wenceslaus Square.

The police, determined to minimize unrest during the anniversary of the Soviet invasion, appear to have been overzealous in trying to avert a major disturbance. In the most significant incident, police used tear gas to break up a largely passive and apparently unorganized crowd estimated at several thousand by a Western newsman. Such overreaction by the police could lead to more serious conflicts between the authorities and demonstrators before the anniversary is over.]

Despite the inevitability of some demonstrations during the anniversary period, there is no evidence [] that additional Soviet troops have moved into Czechoslovakia or close to the Czechoslovak borders. []

[] has turned up no evidence of large Soviet troop movements in these countries, nor is there any evidence of large-scale Soviet troop movements in southern East Germany. Some Soviet troops stationed in Czechoslovakia may have moved closer to the cities, however, probably to handle any disturbances that the Czechoslovak Army and security troops fail to control.

[Pro-Soviet hardliners are rumored to have devised a plan to generate widespread disturbances in an effort to bring another military intervention and the subsequent ouster of Husak. While the conservatives might attempt to take advantage of such unrest to strengthen their position, they are unlikely to initiate or to provide the impetus for spontaneous acts of violence.] []

20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

5

SECRET

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Poland: Grain and potato production will be down at least 10 percent from last year's record levels as a result of prolonged adverse weather conditions.

The late sowing of winter grains in 1968, followed by a cold winter and late spring, delayed both the growth of grain crops and spring sowing. A widespread drought during the past six weeks combined with very warm weather has damaged late summer crops and is hampering field preparation for fall sowing of bread grain.

The livestock sector may be most seriously affected by the anticipated decline in potato, feed grain, and forage production. The potato harvest, most of which is used for livestock feed, may be the smallest in several years. Although consumers may enjoy increased meat supplies if farmers are forced to slaughter their livestock, longer term prospects for both domestic consumption and export are poor. Despite the larger than usual grain carryover from last year's record crop, imports of feed grains and high-protein supplements will have to be increased in 1969-70 if livestock numbers are to be maintained. Some of these imports may have to come from the West.

Fruits and vegetables also are in short supply. Virtually no early vegetables reached the market, and the late crop has been reduced by the drought. Poland may find it difficult to find sources of supply for imports of fruits and vegetables at this late date, especially from other East European countries that face similar shortages.

25X1

20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

6

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Communist China - USSR: The lengthy protest note yesterday is China's latest effort to counter Soviet public and private propaganda and to discredit Moscow as the "aggressor" in the continuing border dispute. The note charged the Soviets with over 400 provocations along the eastern and Sinkiang frontiers during June and July. It denounced Moscow for talking about "normalizing" the border situation while actually adopting measures which "intensify" tensions. Last June, the Chinese issued a similar protest which was clearly timed to undercut Moscow's position during the world Communist conference. Peking probably judges that re-emphasizing border issues provides a highly effective political line of attack against Moscow on the eve of the first anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

[REDACTED]

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USSR: The Soviets will try to land an unmanned probe on Mars before the US, according to the deputy director of the Institute of Space Research in Moscow.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

7

SECRET

SECRET

63

Guyana and Surinam Clash in Disputed Area



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25X1

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Burma: The military regime purports to be unconcerned over public attacks by former prime minister U Nu. Reacting to U Nu's denunciation to Ne Win, made to the press earlier this month in Bangkok, Foreign Minister Muang Lwin told the US ambassador that the government does not fear criticism and had expected such statements from U Nu once he was permitted to leave Burma. Rangoon's calm reaction probably reflects its belief that U Nu's inept performance as prime minister makes it unlikely that he will pose a serious threat. [REDACTED]

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Tanzania - Communist China: The US Embassy in Dar es Salaam has learned that about 100 Tanzanians will go to Communist China this fall for naval training. They will be in China between 14 months and two years. This is probably the first phase of a \$10 million agreement to develop a navy which Tanzania signed with Peking in late 1968. Under the agreement the Chinese also will provide patrol boats and will construct a navy base at Dar es Salaam. [REDACTED]

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Guyana-Surinam: Shooting broke out on 19 August when Guyanese troops with aircraft drove a small contingent of Surinam police from an airstrip the Surinamers had in the disputed border area. The Surinamers are reportedly preparing to airlift reinforcements to the border. Logistically, they are better able to operate in the area than are the Guyanese, who will be hard pressed to maintain their control of the airstrip if the Surinamers attempt to dislodge them. [REDACTED]

25X1

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20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

9

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Sudan: Strains are appearing within the ruling Revolutionary Council as the government grapples with a number of internal problems. Amid increasing rumors of a split between moderate and radical elements in the council, the government announced cryptically on 17 August that "some civilians and military men" had been arrested for allegedly plotting against the regime. No major changes in the government are anticipated in the near future, however. Although most Sudanese are unenthusiastic over the present regime, they do not want a return to the former conservative system of government.

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25X6

20 Aug 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

10

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